

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A closable opening device for a sealed package of a pourable food product, said device comprising:

- a frame fitted about a pierceable portion of said package and defining a through hole;
- a removable threaded cap which screws onto said frame to close said hole;
- a tubular cutting member engaging said hole and having an end cutting edge which cooperates with said pierceable portion to unseal said package;

- first connecting means for connecting said cap and said cutting member so as to rotate said cutting member during rotation of the cap to unscrew the cap off said frame when unsealing said package; and

- second connecting means for connecting said frame and said cutting member so as to move said cutting member along a spiral path through said pierceable portion in response to said rotation of said cap;

wherein said cutting edge comprises a main blade; and at least a number of first teeth which, proceeding along said cutting edge in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of said cutting member, are located downstream from the main blade; said first teeth decreasing gradually in height, proceeding along said cutting edge in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of said cutting member, so as to act successively on said pierceable portion.

2. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said main blade has a cutting side facing in a traveling direction of said cutting member with respect to said pierceable portion and sloping backwards.

3. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first teeth decrease linearly in height as of said main blade.

4. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said first teeth have respective ends lying along a line sloping less than said spiral path of said cutting member.

5. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein one of said first teeth, located adjacent to said main blade, is the same height as said main blade.

6. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said cutting edge of said cutting member comprises a number of second teeth located on the opposite side of said first teeth to said main blade.

7. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 6 16, wherein said second teeth are all the same height, and are at most equal to the minimum height of said first teeth.

8. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 6 16, wherein said cutting edge of said cutting member comprises an auxiliary blade having a circumference which is 3 to 7 times the width of one of said first or second teeth.

9. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said auxiliary blade has a cutting side facing in the traveling direction of said cutting member, and having substantially the same slope as the sides of said first and second teeth.

10. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said frame comprises a cylindrical collar for receiving said cap and defining said hole; and in that said second connecting means comprise an inner thread of said collar and an outer thread of said cutting member.

11. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said frame and said cutting member are molded in one piece in a preassembly configuration in which they are joined coaxially with each other by breakable joining means.

12. (New) A closable opening device for a sealed package of a pourable food product, said device comprising:

- a frame fitted about a pierceable portion of said package and defining a through hole;
- a removable threaded cap which screws onto said frame to close said hole;

- a tubular cutting member engaging said hole and having an end cutting edge which cooperates with said pierceable portion to unseal said package;

- first connecting means for connecting said cap and said cutting member so as to rotate said cutting member during rotation of the cap to unscrew the cap off said frame when unsealing said package; and

- second connecting means for connecting said frame and said cutting member so as to move said cutting member along a spiral path through said pierceable portion in response to said rotation of said cap;

wherein said cutting edge comprises a main blade; and at least a number of first teeth which, proceeding along said cutting edge in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of said cutting member, are located downstream from the main blade; said first teeth decreasing gradually in height so as to act successively on said pierceable portion;

wherein said cutting edge comprises a number of second teeth located on the opposite side of said first teeth to said main blade, and said second teeth are all the same height and are at most equal to the minimum height of said first teeth.

13. (New) A closable opening device for a sealed package of a pourable food product, said device comprising:

- a frame fitted about a pierceable portion of said package and defining a through hole;

- a removable threaded cap which screws onto said frame to close said hole;

- a tubular cutting member engaging said hole and having an end cutting edge which cooperates with said pierceable portion to unseal said package;

- first connecting means for connecting said cap and said cutting member so as to rotate said cutting member during rotation of the cap to unscrew the cap off said frame when unsealing said package; and

- second connecting means for connecting said frame and said cutting member so as to move said cutting member along a spiral path through said pierceable portion in response to said rotation of said cap;

wherein said cutting edge comprises a main blade; and at least a number of first teeth which, proceeding along said cutting edge in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of said cutting member, are located downstream from the main blade; said first teeth decreasing gradually in height so as to act successively on said pierceable portion;

wherein said cutting edge comprises a number of second teeth located on the opposite side of said first teeth to said main blade and an auxiliary blade having a circumference which is 3 to 7 times the width of one of said first or second teeth.

14. (New) A closable opening device for a sealed package of a pourable food product, said device comprising:

- a frame fitted about a pierceable portion of said package and defining a through hole;

- a removable threaded cap which screws onto said frame to close said hole; - a tubular cutting member engaging said hole and having an end cutting edge which cooperates with said pierceable portion to unseal said package;

- first connecting means for connecting said cap and said cutting member so as to rotate said cutting member during rotation of the cap to unscrew the cap off said frame when unsealing said package; and

- second connecting means for connecting said frame and said cutting member so as to move said cutting member along a spiral path through said pierceable portion in response to said rotation of said cap;

wherein said cutting edge comprises a main blade having an asymmetric triangular shape, and at least a number of first teeth which, proceeding along said cutting edge in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of said cutting member, are located downstream from the main blade; said first teeth decreasing gradually in height so as to act successively on said pierceable portion.

15. (New) A closable opening device for a sealed package of a pourable food product, said device comprising:

- a frame fitted about a pierceable portion of said package and defining a through hole;

- a removable threaded cap which screws onto said frame to close said hole;

- a tubular cutting member engaging said hole and having an end cutting edge which cooperates with said pierceable portion to unseal said package;

- first connecting means for connecting said cap and said cutting member so as to rotate said cutting member during rotation of the cap to unscrew the cap off said frame when unsealing said package; and

- second connecting means for connecting said frame and said cutting member so as to move said cutting member along a spiral path through said pierceable portion in response to said rotation of said cap;

wherein said cutting edge comprises a main blade including a cutting side that slopes backwards from a tip of the main blade in a direction opposite the direction of rotation of the cutting member; and at least a number of first teeth which, proceeding along said cutting edge in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of said cutting member, are located downstream from the main blade; said first teeth decreasing gradually in height so as to act successively on said pierceable portion.

16. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said cutting edge of said cutting member comprises a number of second teeth located on the opposite side of said first teeth to said main blade.